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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF INFORMATION

(Release on receipt)

SUBJECT: "Food for the Hungry Peoples"--Information from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

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Almost anyone you talk with--who has been in the war torn countries--will tell you about the hungry children...their pleading eyes and gaunt little figures.

When children are hungry you may be sure the grown-ups are hungry too. And you only have to read reports from UNRRA to know this is true. Peace has not brought plenty. This is due partly to the war and partly to terrible droughts that cut down on harvest in food producing countries this past year. Result is that millions of people will starve within the next few months unless we help them.

One way we can help is to save and share the food we already have. Another way we can help is to produce more food this coming season.

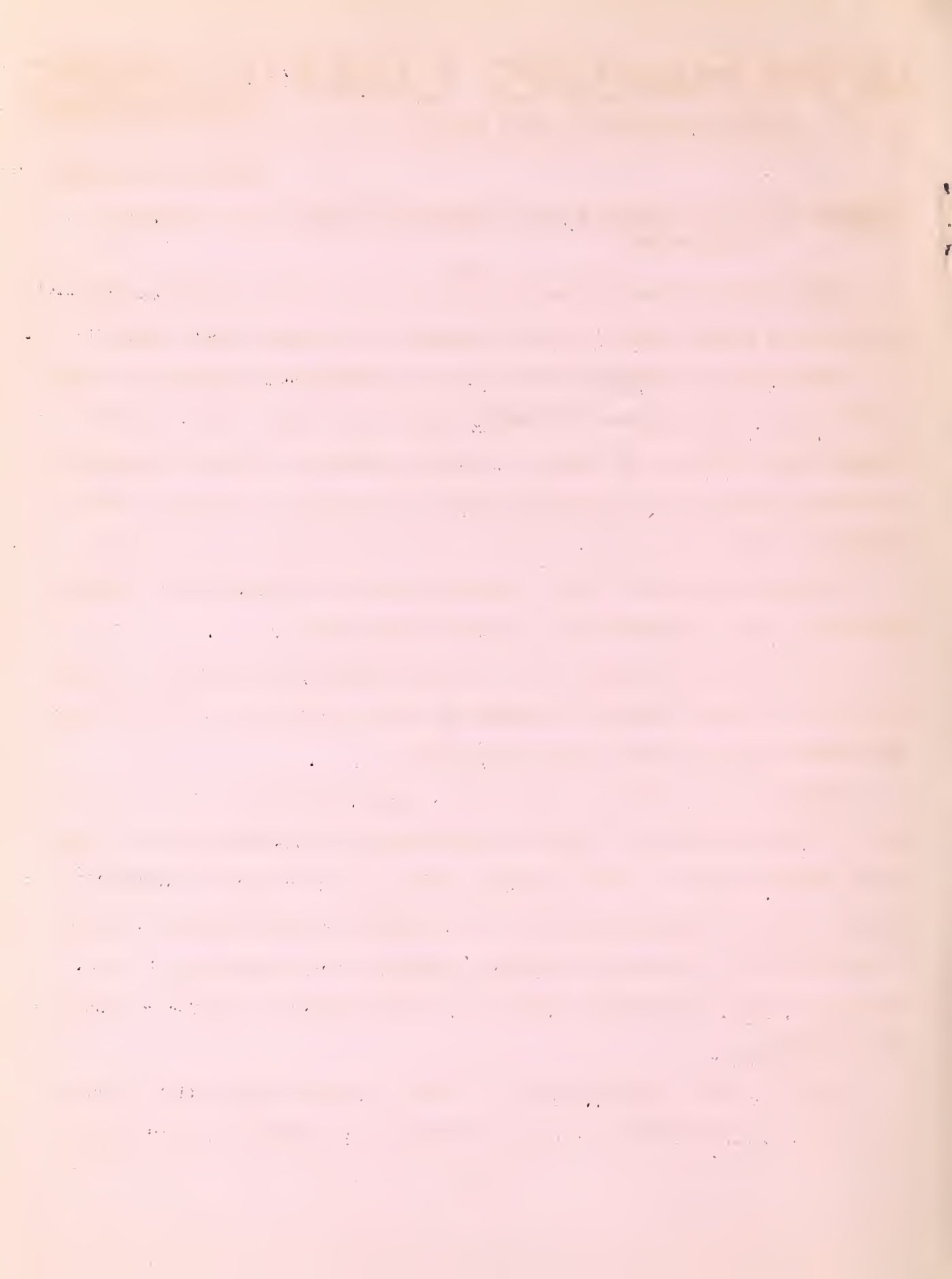
Recently President Truman set out a 9-point program for increasing the help we can give to other countries by sharing the food we already have. No doubt you are familiar with the main features of this plan.

Briefly...we are asked to conserve food...especially bread. We are to save wheat by using flour with a higher wheat extraction---80 percent instead of 72 percent. Wheat is not to be used in making alcohol or beer. Farmers are asked to conserve grain in feeding livestock. The government is giving shipments of much needed foods such as wheat, corn and meat, priorities on the railroads. We are using more ships to send food to Europe and to bring copra for coconut oil from the Philippines.

More than this...a committee has been formed to marshal the forces of good will to work out ways that we can help by saving food to share with other peoples.

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This is the Famine Emergency committee. Former President Hoover is the honorary chairman.

President Truman's 9-point program...and the Famine Emergency committee will chart the course by which we share the food we already have.

Now for the other side of the picture...produce more food. First...the farmers of the United States have been asked to raise their production goals. Specifically they are asked to increase their plantings of wheat by a million acres...of corn by a million acres...of soybeans by more than a million acres...and of dry edible peas by a hundred thousand acres. All of these are foods that can be easily shipped to all parts of the world.

Then...every one of us who can possibly do so is asked to grow a home garden this year.

During the war...Victory gardens made it possible for thousands of families to raise their own fresh vegetables. This year...home gardens and plus commercial vegetable production will help us to replace other foods we need to ship overseas. More than that...the food we grow at home and eat at home will release valuable shipping space on the railroads. So home gardens fit into the food production and food sharing picture.

Each of us can help in this fight against famine. We can help by conserving the food we have so that we will have more to share. And we can help by planting a garden and raising a part of our food supply at home this year.

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